

BERKELEY PUBLIC SCHOOL

# BLUE AND WHITE

# NEWSLETTER

**Respect**

Respect means caring for and valuing yourself and sharing kindness and consideration for others.

**Responsibility**

Responsibility means being trustworthy and accountable for your behaviour.

**Safety**

Safety means protecting the well-being and security of everyone in our school.

**Cooperation**

Cooperation means getting along by working and playing together.

**Reconciliation Walk**





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## Principal's Message

Nagangbi, hello everyone. This week are recognising Reconciliation Week with this year's theme focused on 'Now More Than Ever'. National Reconciliation Week invites every Australian to delve into our collective past and appreciate the diverse cultures and histories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. By being active participants in the week's activities, we are building stronger connections between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples which benefits everyone. Our school came together with a local community of schools to participate in the Reconciliation Walk held down at the lake foreshore for a walk and activities. The students remaining at school took part in an assembly and indigenous games. Check out the Illawarra Mercury for a story featuring our school and a photo of some of our students participating in the event.

This term has seen many staff movements from our school. Mrs Carolina Vujasin was successful in gaining a transfer to Windang PS, where she is currently teaching. We wish her all the best and will be farewelling her from our school on Monday 1 July at 3:15pm if any community members would like to join us. Ms Radha Green was successful in an expression of interest to work at Warilla PS and will be teaching a Year 1 class for the rest of this year. We will miss Ms. Green's expertise and smiling face each day at our school. Mr Osborne has also recently separated from the Department of Education and officially retired from teaching after a long and outstanding career as a teacher and leader. Mr Osborne is looking forward to spending time with his family and travelling as he enjoys retirement. We wish him all the best in the future. As he has officially left his position, recruitment for the principal role is currently happening and we should know by the end of the term who his permanent replacement will be. We thank you Mr Osborne for your contribution to Public Education and particularly the impact you have made to our school.

Our students have been so busy in the classrooms learning and growing and some of our students have achieved exceptional results outside the classrooms. Thank you to Miss Thomson and Miss Janeska for your work with the debating team. They proudly represented our school last week at Windang PS for their first ever debating competition. Although they did not win, they had Windang shaking in their boots with their impressive efforts for a first go. Watch out to the next school to take them on!

We have learned four of our students; Sofia, Joni, Paige and Alexis were successful in gaining a place at Wollongong Performing Arts High School for 2025. Congratulations girls, we know you will shine! Paige and her sister Imogen were also successful in gaining a place in the Southern Stars Performance company. Well done girls we can't wait to see you onstage!

So many of our students have made us proud representing our school in District Cross Country and soon the District Athletics Carnival. Congratulations to Jacob, Deo, Dainan, Braxton, Scarlett and Sailor who were successful in qualifying for the Regional Cross Country Carnival in Nowra on Friday 14 June. Congratulations to Eli and Sailor who have been selected for South Coast PSSA representative teams. Eli was selected for rugby union and Sailor for netball. I am busting with pride with what our students have achieved this term!

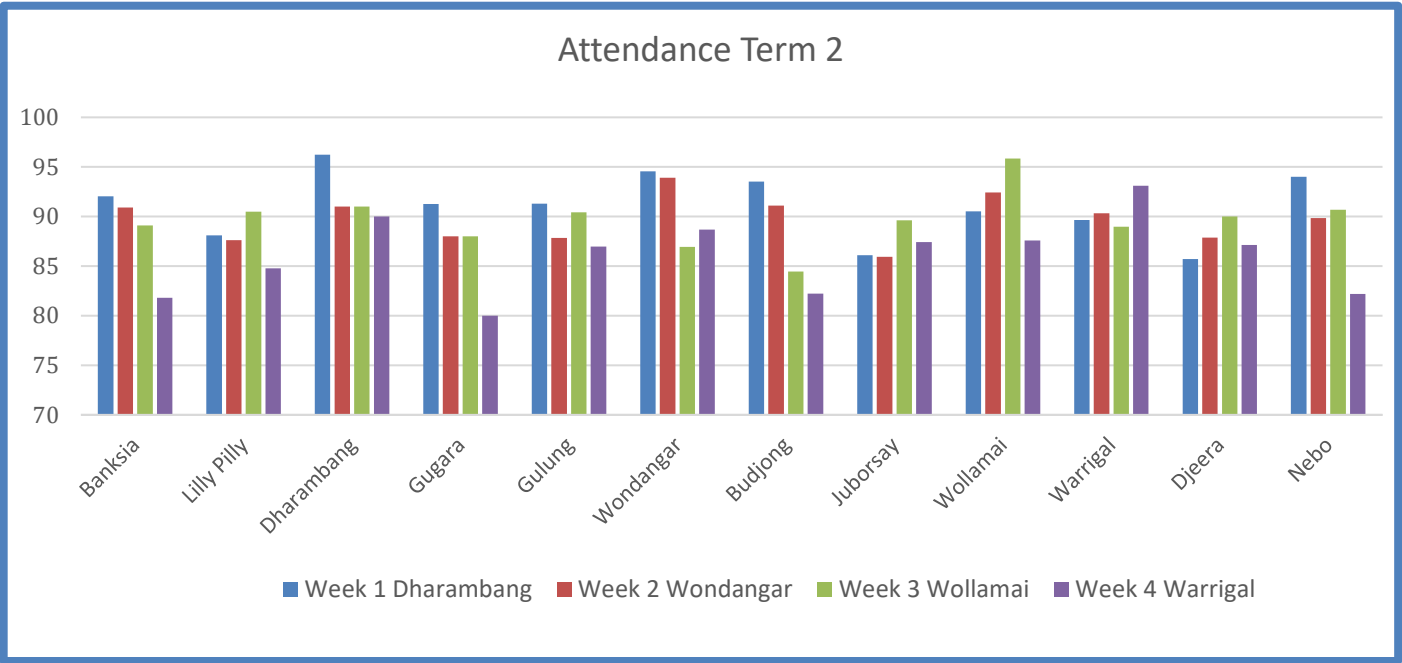
As we near the end of the term, teachers are busy preparing reports for Semester 1. This year, reports will be emailed to student families via School Bytes. Please ensure you have provided the school with your correct email address, and make sure your mail boxes have sufficient room to receive emails. If you would like a paper copy, please contact the school office.



Melanie Bowden  
Relieving Principal

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## Attendance Matters



### It’s not OK to be away

- Attendance every day at school is important for your child’s progress. It helps build friendships, life-long work habits and makes sure learning takes place.
- Wherever possible, dental and medical appointments should be made out of school hours.
- If your child is absent from school, please contact the school or write a brief note to explain your child’s absence. You must state the reason why your child has been absent, eg type of illness or reason for leave. Saying my child “was away” is not good enough.
- **An explanation must be provided to the school within 7 days of an absence.**

## First Nations News Term 2 Week 5

### Ngalambay Reconciliation Walk

On Wednesday 29 May we held our first Ngalambay Reconciliation Walk at Hooker Point which is a collaborative Reconciliation Week event held by our CoP schools. It was wonderful to see our schools participate in this event and it was wonderful to see so many families come together to show and recognise the importance of the significant event.

Students were welcomed by Uncle Richard from Gumaraa and he shared a local story ‘Gurangaty’ which had the students enthralled and excited to learn about the local First Nations history. Uncle Peter Button did a traditional Smoking Ceremony to begin the walk and together the schools walked the track to Hooker Point in recognition of Reconciliation. Back at Berkeley PS, students and teachers completed a walk around the school grounds and participated in some traditional games as well as a variety of in class activities.

Special thanks to Miss Amber Quintal and the staff at Berkeley PS who supported and took a leading role in organising this event and thanks to all the students and families who participated in the activities.



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## Berkeley's Premier's Debating Challenge Team

### ***There is no debating about it!***

Berkeley Public School has eight talented debaters from Stage 3 competing in the NSW Premier's Debating Challenge.

Joni Bligh, Alira Murtezani, Harpah Da Costa, Indiana Stevceski, Gabby Scaricamazza, Alexis Stepto, Paige Allen and Christian Kresevic have participated in an all day workshop, developing skills to prove their point and disprove the opposing team. Lunch time practices and afternoon sessions are preparing the team for their competition. Last Thursday 23 May they debated against Windang Public School. It was neck and neck, and they had the other team sweating with their rebuttals.

Miss Janeska and Miss Thompson are extremely proud of the achievement thus far. The team competes in four rounds in the initial phase with their next debate against Barrack Heights Public School.

Congratulations to the Debating Team.



## District Cross Country



Congratulations to all the participants at the District Cross Country. We certainly have some very talented runners at BPS.

Thank you to Mrs Ryan for the extra training and thank you to all the parents for transporting and supporting your children at the event.



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## Athletics Carnival

We were lucky with the weather on our second try at the athletics carnival. It was good to see so many children having a go. Well done to those athletes that have advanced to the District Carnival to be held on Thursday 25 and Friday 26 July at Beaton Park Wollongong.

